

Some thoughts on John 7

I. WHO IS JESUS?

❖ *What His brothers/"the Jews"/the crowds/the Pharisees said:*

7:1—should be killed

7:4—a wonder worker who wants to be a public figure

7:7—a prophetic voice about evil in the world

7:12—a good man

7:12,47—a deceiver

7:15—a learned teacher

7:20—demon possessed

7:21,31—astonishing miracle worker

7:23—a lawbreaker

7:26,31,41—the Christ

7:30,44—someone who should be seized

7:31—someone to put faith in

7:32—someone who should be arrested

7:35-36—someone who will go to scattered Jews

7:40—the Prophet of Deuteronomy 18:15

7:46—someone who speaks as no one else ever has

❖ *Jesus' self-understanding/connection with the Father :*

7:6,8,30—someone whose timing/life plan determined by the Father

7:16,18,28,29—sent by the Father

7:16—teaching from the Father

7:18—works for the honor of the Father who sent Him

7:28—not “here on His own” but the Father who sent Him is true

7:29—from the Father

7:33—will go to the One who sent Him

Thoughts/Questions:

- Who do we say that Jesus is? “Who do YOU say that I am?” (Luke 9:20) Jesus asked his disciples. What opinion do you identify with amid all the various opinions given us in John 7? Why is this question important?
- What did Jesus seem to draw from His relationship with the Father and how are we to connect with the Father in any of the same ways? (for example, identity, belonging, source, alignment, purpose, calling, life plan, direction, dependence-reliance, authority/submission-obedience, honoring, voice to listen to.....)
- How can you stay true to who Jesus is through your day? Lenten breath prayer exercise...

II. THE FEAST OF THE TABERNACLES

- ❖ Commemorates God's provision in the wilderness as the Israelites wandered
 - Tabernacle—shelter, home/God's presence, a place to worship
 - Manna—daily provision of bread
 - Water from the Rock—Moses striking the rock
- ❖ Feast also incorporated prayers and rituals for rain for crops in the coming year
- ❖ Daily ritual and prayer—filling pitcher with water, walking up to the temple chanting
- ❖ “With joy will you draw water from the well of salvation.” Isa. 12:3

Thoughts/Questions:

- What did the people of God need in the wilderness? God's presence with them, water, bread. God provided. A “moveable feast”
- What do we as the people of God need today? God's presence=HOME, the Bread of Life, streams of living water-the Holy Spirit. How does God provide permanently in Christ what was only provisional in the wilderness? God's presence- a dwelling-a Home in Him, the Bread of Life that satisfies our hungers, the fresh-cleansing-refreshing-flowing person of the Holy Spirit in our lives.
- We are people with needs, desires, longings. We are propelled to find solutions, satisfaction, a fix. Where do we look for those? Do we try to find those ourselves or do we look to what God offers and provides?
- Breath Prayer exercise...Use each of the names to identify a need/thirst/longing the Lord supplies through who He is

III. JESUS INVITATION

“If anyone is thirsty, let them come to me and drink. Whoever believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within them. “ John 7:37,38

- ❖ How do we accept Jesus invitation?
 - Hear it
 - Admit our thirst-know yourself as needy, unable to provide for yourself
 - Come to Jesus and drink-believe in Jesus as the One who can satisfy our thirst-accept His offer “Come to the Altar-the Father's arms are open wide”....
 - Experience the presence and new life of the Holy Spirit-the living presence of God- in your heart –where the love God has for you becomes a “thirst quenching reality” that refreshes, revives, cleanses, renews

And the result will be that the presence of the Triune God will “well up”, overflow from within you to flow out and bless, love and serve those whom the Lord puts in your path.

Thoughts/Questions:

- Are you thirsty? Have you come to Jesus to satisfy your thirst? Do you believe that only He, the Father, Son and Holy Spirit, can provide and satisfy your needs?
- How does the Holy Spirit's presence in your life cleanse, refresh, renew, restore you each day?
- Who is in your “splash zone”? Share a time where the Lord has used you to refresh someone else with His presence in your life.